

## Children's Center: Up And Running

Abby, April and Laney enjoy running outside in the newly created "playground" aka the parking lot between the main church building and the fellowship hall. Being outside is just one of the many activities that children will experience on a typical day at the FUMC Children's Center. Chapel, music, nap time, sign language class, and *Stretch and Grow* exercise complement the *Creative Curriculum* for preschoolers and *We Learn Curriculum* for all ages babies through age 5.

See page 3 for more pics of cute kids.



The highly anticipated five-day childcare center at FUMC-Odessa is open for business and is operating on all cylinders. Parents and children love it!

Cindy Lewis, Director of Children's Ministry at the church, said the daycare center opened on September 20 with an enrollment of 68 children. At press time, the number was 73 and counting.

When the state licensing agency finally got around to visiting the center in early September, the inspector was so impressed that she approved the center for up to 100 children instead of the 80 that Cindy expected. "But we don't intend to serve that many," Cindy said. "We want to maintain quality of child care instead of numbers."

The goal is to have a maximum of 85 children on a continuing basis, she said. However, having the extra slots approved will allow the center to take care of drop-ins and children of visitors in town for the holidays, for example.

The center also wants to be available on half-day

basis for the older children enrolled in the ECISD kindergarten programs. A couple of children in those programs are already being dropped off at the center daily by school bus.

So far, the enrollment at the new daycare center has come about strictly from word of mouth. However, newspaper advertisements have now been placed and inquiries have started coming in from that source.

Cindy said the state inspector had glowing comments about the classrooms, was happy with the equipment and was even impressed with the size of the area planned for a playground, even though there is no playground yet. The next project for the center is likely to be a fundraiser for playground equipment and a soft pad covering for the playground area.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by Chamber of Commerce and other officials, is planned for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6, officially opening the daycare center.

—LaDoyce Lambert

# ENOUGH

## Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity



**Terry Tamplen**  
Senior Pastor

**S**tress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."<sup>1</sup>

Join us in worship beginning Sunday, October 17 for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over the five weeks of this series, we will be having a church-wide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study (visit [www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org) for details about small-group study opportunities). We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

### Schedule of Events:

Sunday, October 17

"Faith In The Midst of Financial Crisis"  
Small-Group Study Begins

Sunday, October 24

"When Dreams Become Nightmares"

Sunday, October 31

"Wisdom and Finance"

Sunday, November 7

"Cultivating Contentment"

Sunday, November 14

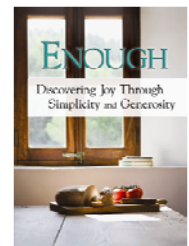
Celebration Sunday - "Defined by Generosity"

*Worship-Fellowship Meal-Sharing Life Outreach*

Results Celebration and Consecration of Next Year's

Ministry Commitments

Small-Group Study Ends



**Extravagant Generosity**

<sup>1</sup> "Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html>.

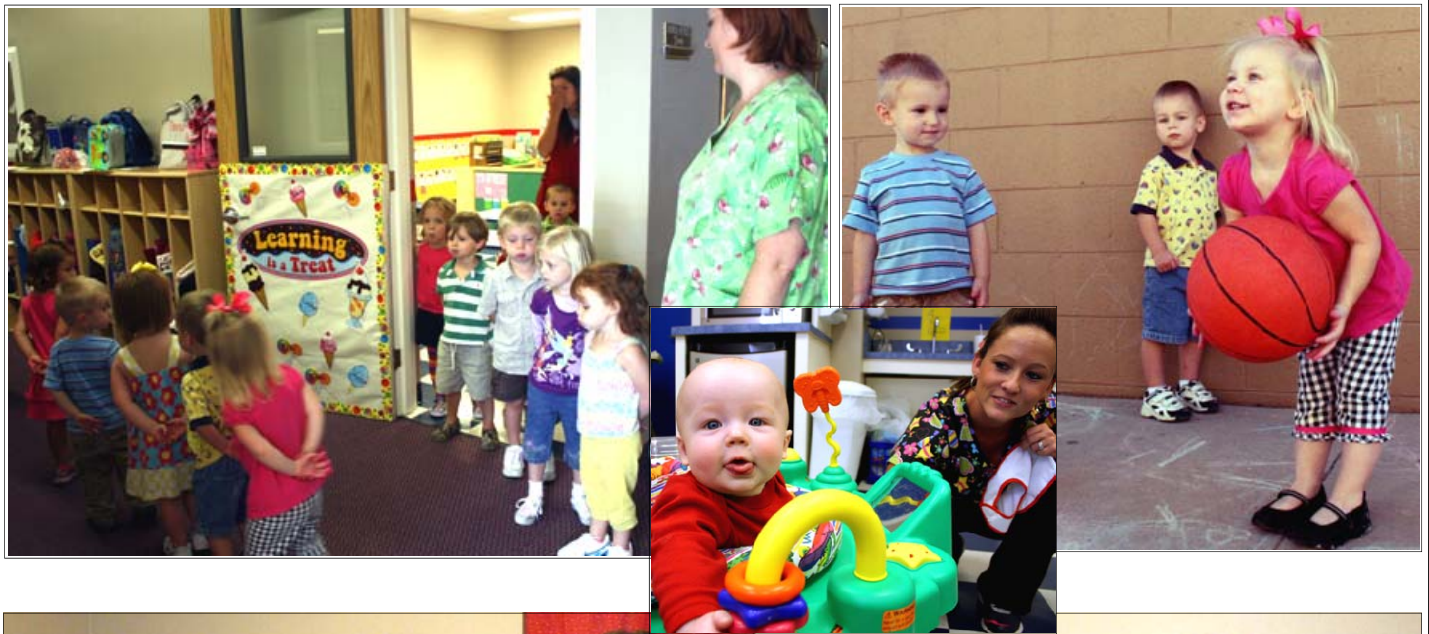
# Children's Center Helps Fulfill Goal Of Reaching Out To Odessa And Attracting Young Families To Our Church



Risk-Taking Mission & Service

(L) These two-year-olds learn to walk in a line by first holding onto a rope with a ring on it for them to grab. Pictured below: (L) children quietly line up to go to chapel, (R) Conner, Benjamin and Laney learn to catch and throw a basketball, and (C) teacher Bobbie Jo plays with Logan in the infant room.

According to Cindy Lewis, of the 73 children enrolled in the five-day daycare, 63 are not members of our church. One purpose of the daycare is to attract families with young children to come to our church, and Cindy can track 18 families who have visited or joined our church after enrolling their children in our childcare program.



Teachers and Teacher's Aides for Children's Center: these women have been prayerfully selected to tend to all of the children. Their dedication to the children is what makes a successful day care.



**One child.  
One hour.  
One church.  
One school.**

All mentors are super, but Susie Williams (L) demonstrates the first trait of a super mentor: know the child's name.

Other super mentors are (R) Steve Riley, Sande McAdams and Wanda Chenault.



**Risk-Taking  
Mission & Service**

*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.* That song sums up the mission of Kids Hope USA—to show little children the love of Jesus. Twelve members have now been trained as Kids Hope USA mentors by directors Sarah Mazur and Kris Riley. All are awaiting background checks by ECISD before volunteering at Cavazos Elementary. The west side school has 866 students. Our dozen members will work with a dozen students during the school year. Mentors were taught the four keys to successful mentoring with the help of “SUPER MENTOR.” They also received information about the challenges and needs children face today, along with ideas and activities they can use to help meet those needs. Respect for separation of church and state, safety measures, and school rules were also covered. It is a full and fun-filled training. We are grateful to these adults who have volunteered their time to reach out to the children in our community.

—Kris Riley, Outreach Ministry



More Super Mentors ready to give one hour to one child are Terry Tamplen, Randy Talley, director Kris Riley, Cindy Lewis, Christy Lewis, Kids Hope director Sarah Mazur, Sharon Brumelle, Sue McDonald, Julie Garrett, and the photographer, Betsy Triplett-Hurt.

## Opportunities To Serve Our Community

Sharing Love

Serving our community can be achieved through programs that are in addition to the outreach events sponsored by our church. On a regular basis, Outreach Ministry Director Kris Riley receives information about worthy causes through the mail, phone calls, and emails. Here are a couple of the most recent items she has received. Contact Kris for more information.

- The March of Dimes has grant money available to organizations willing to partner with them for the benefit of the *Hope Chest* project. *Hope Chest* is designed to increase the number of women who get early and regular prenatal care. It also educates expectant parents about healthy prenatal and infant care practices.
- A *Recycled Card Ministry* takes used greeting cards donated by members and “recycles” them into new cards to be sold at our welcome centers. This ministry would use many of the same tools and skills used in scrapbooking.

## First-rate Attendance Affirms New “I Am Second” Outreach

Hardly anyone likes to be second. But four small groups of young adults affiliated with First United Methodist Church are preparing to declare to the world just that: “I am second.”

Not second to “what,” but second to “whom?” The nationwide movement is designed to create an awareness that each individual should put Jesus first and themselves second in all phases of life.

Christy Lewis, Director of Communications and Family Life for the church, said almost 50 persons have signed up so far in four groups: two couples groups, a newlywed couples group and a group composed of young women. Plans are in the works for a youth group to form in connection with the weekly Wednesday night program.

These small groups have proven to be an outreach success since many of those participating have not previously been coming to Sunday School or other small groups, and some have not even been coming to church at all, Christy said.

An “I Am Second” group is a gathering of people who want to put Jesus first in their lives, Christy said; “people who know the freedom found in Christ and want to pass it on to others.” She added that putting Jesus first also helps in dealing with

typical struggles of everyday living. Kelly and Adam Allgood had thirteen non-church members attend the first session in their home. Subsequent weeks

have had good attendance, too.

Part of the curriculum for the “I Am Second” groups is film clips of personal testimonies recorded by celebrities such as UT football star Colt McCoy, actor Stephen Baldwin, presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and

race car driver Darrell Waltrip. These testimonies provide much of the momentum for the movement and can be viewed on the website at [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com).

Christy said the action part of participating in these groups will be the wearing of “I Am Second” bracelets and T-shirts, inviting the curious to ask what it means. This, she said, provides the opportunity to tell what putting themselves second has meant to their lives. “It’s another way to live as a disciple,” she said.

Persons interested in joining an “I Am Second” group or forming a new one can contact Christy at the church for details, [christylewis@fumcodessa.org](mailto:christylewis@fumcodessa.org).

—LaDoyce Lambert



Intentional Faith Development

**Jumpers**      **Family Style**      **Top Fun!**  
**MINUTE TO WINIT**  
**Games**

**“I Am Second”  
 Family Fun Day  
 @  
 Jim Parker Park  
 Sunday, October 10  
 4-6 p.m.**

**Monday Morning  
 Manly Meal**  
*(a gathering of the men of the church)*

**Every Monday  
 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Hall**

Breakfast — biscuits, gravy, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee.

*Start your work week off right with a great inter-generational fellowship time for all men.*

Sign up with Judy in the church office, 337-1527

## Online Electronic Giving Now Available, [www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)

"Convenience" and "consistency" are the keys to electronic giving as a way to make scheduled, automatic contributions to First United Methodist Church.

Senior Pastor Terry Tamplen points out that electronic giving is convenient for the giver since checks don't have to be written, and it provides consistent income for the church to meet its expenses and obligations and fund its programs.

Electronic giving can be done through automatic debits from checking and savings accounts or by credit card and debit card. An Authorization Form, and help in filling it out, can be obtained from Financial Manager Mary Blain in the church office. Electronic giving can also be set up online by going



to the church website, [www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org) and clicking "Online Giving" at the top of the home page.

The online method of authorization is the most flexible, since after providing one-time information, the donor can set up and manage donations and track donation history. One-time or recurring donations can be made online.

Pastor Terry emphasizes that electronic giving is being offered strictly as an option. "Those who feel more comfortable and like to put a check in the offering plate or mail it to the office may certainly continue to do so," he said.

—LaDoyce Lambert

## Spice Of Life



September birthdays for Spice Of Life: Sam Howell and Jody Wallin hold another spectacular cake created by Johnnie Williams. September's lunch topic was "Praying the ABCs." Johnnie Williams presented the program about praying through the alphabet, using each letter to describe God. Everyone enjoyed the meal prepared by Sam and Russell. Join us next time on October 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Charge Conference



El Paso District Superintendent Steve McElroy will conduct our church's annual Charge Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY



*Do you feel a calling to care for others who are hurting? Do you desire the personal joy that comes by sharing Christ's love with people?*

Stephen Ministry is truly "ministry," that is, service to others, caring for others in Jesus' name, doing the work that God has both called and gifted his children to do. This month our Stephen Leader Team will begin training other members of our congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister, join us for an **Orientation on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 10:00 a.m.** Stephen Ministry Training classes begin on Oct. 14 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.



**October Birthdays**

<u>October 1</u> Mitchell Estep Jonathan Wells	<u>October 10</u> Ronald Baker Evelyn Bauman Sara Drainer Kerry Giesler Earl Shaw	<u>October 15</u> Jace Ahrlett Paula Elrod Ruth Searls Anthony Vickery	<u>October 21</u> Sara Bennie Kalpana Christian Helen Coffin Donna Patton Maudie Winn	<u>October 27</u> Emily Allbright Connie Nichols
<u>October 2</u> Wesley Estep Finlay Patterson Joe Dee Thompson	<u>October 11</u> Jimmy Burleson Jonnie Hackleman Paula Pool	<u>October 16</u> Mary Lou Kiphart	<u>October 22</u> Clyde Shugart Amy Young	<u>October 28</u> Kay Bramley Taylor Coursey Amanda Houser Hugh Williams Greg Wood
<u>October 4</u> Scott Coulter	<u>October 12</u> Davis Browning Jennifer Myers Leon Rybolt	<u>October 17</u> Morris Bates	<u>October 23</u> May Copley Graham Thompson	<u>October 29</u> Reba Bailey Tara Cawthron Wanda Chenault Arleene Loyd Joel Roberts Ann Smith
<u>October 6</u> Lucy McAdams	<u>October 13</u> Skye Ferguson Holly McAdams Mike Robinson	<u>October 18</u> Jeanna Lambert Marcy Shugart Nell Smith	<u>October 24</u> Yadi Ainsworth Karen Olson Jane Reid Mary Jane Wright	<u>October 30</u> Debbie Morgan
<u>October 7</u> Lucille Brown Axtin Villa	<u>October 14</u> Karin Carlson Lonnie Sims Geraldine Swindler Bobby White	<u>October 19</u> Richard Buck Kennedi Cox Randy Grice	<u>October 25</u> John Robinson	<u>October 31</u> Gabe Grewell
<u>October 8</u> Joe Burroughs		<u>October 20</u> Jason Jones Jonell Sims Braxton White Suzy Wiggins	<u>October 26</u> Thomas Ainsworth	
<u>October 9</u> Christy Lewis				



**Memorial Gifts**

Shared Ministries

In memory of:  
**James Allen**  
**Don Farris**  
Given by  
Vicki & Richard Wright

In memory of:  
**Don Farris**  
**Woodrow Leach**  
**Marvin Smith**  
Given by  
Lynda & Bill Fowler

Memorial Fund  
In memory of  
**Woodrow Leach**

Given by:  
Fran & Fritz Bloemker  
Wilma & Robert Bryant  
Monnie & Martin Calfee  
Patty & Phillip Godwin  
Jane Hext  
Janice & Terry Hoeschler  
Dorothy McKelvey  
Jane & Mike Moore  
Ethelda Oakley  
Liz & Bill Roberson  
Jane Russell  
Ann & Pete Scardello

Mary Lu Shaw  
Melvah Wharton

In memory of:  
**Don Farris**  
**Woodrow Leach**  
Given by  
Gloria & LaDoyce Lambert

Children's Clothes Closet

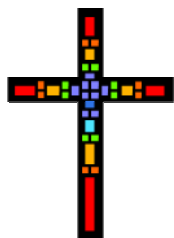
In memory of  
**Estee Smith**  
Given by  
Kerrin & Robert Smith

Food Pantry

In memory of  
**Don Farris**  
Given by  
Virginia McLemore

Youth Ministry  
In memory of:  
**Don Farris**  
**Woodrow Leach**  
Given by  
Eddie Guilbeau

In memory of  
**Phylis Havens**  
Given by  
Denise & Jay Durrell



**Christian Sympathy to...**

...Jean & Bill Heggemeier for the loss of Jean's brother, **Jerry Lago**.  
 ...Judy Ogilvy, Judy and Mike Withrow, Chris, Steve, and Matt, Mike and Sarah Ogilvy and Tim Ogilvy for the loss of husband, father, and grandfather **Buck Ogilvy**.  
 ...Chris and Marta Johnson, Lauren and Abby, for the loss of father and grandfather, **Nick Johnson**.



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[www.fumcodessa.org](http://www.fumcodessa.org)

Enjoy The Cultivator On-line

### Bring A Friend This Sunday

- 8:00 AM **Early Bible Class**
- 9:00 AM **Traditional Worship**  
—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Sunday School, all ages**
- 11:00 AM **Contemporary Worship**  
—Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church, Odessa, Texas, founded in 1890, is a community of Christians who have pledged to support this church with their presence, their service, their gifts and their prayers. We dedicate ourselves to spreading God's Word throughout our community and to providing meaningful worship experiences, fellowship, and opportunities to fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ through a variety of ministries. As United Methodists, "our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to all those who seek God's Grace."

The *CULTIVATOR* is a bi-monthly publication whose exclusive purpose is to help FUMC-Odessa accomplish its Mission by communicating and "cultivating" the presence of Christ in the lives of this congregation.



**Ector County Coliseum - Barn D**  
**Wednesday, October 27**  
**6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**\$5.00**

Join us for an awesome night of food and fun. There will be tons of Pumpkin Games and Activities! We will begin with lots of great food, followed by games and competitions, and then close the evening with worship! Invite your friends!  
**It's going to be a lot of fun!**

**Activities will include:**  
Costume Contest  
Pumpkin Hockey  
Pumpkin Golf  
Pumpkin Volleyball  
Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest  
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs  
Friends  
Worship  
And so much more!



**FALL FEST 2010**

**SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 30**

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Games, prizes, candy  
and more!**  
**Invite your friends and  
come join the fun!**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**CONTACT: CINDY LEWIS**  
**337-1527**